

POLICY BULLETIN CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

NSLP 27-06

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**SUBJECT: Affirmation of Policy on Limited Disclosure of
Children's Eligibility Information to the
National Assessment of Education Progress**

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The administrators of the National Assessment of Educational Process (NAEP) have asked that we remind School Food Authorities (SFAs) that they may disclose, without parent/guardian consent, children's names and eligibility status (whether they are eligible for free meals or free milk or reduced price meals) to persons *directly* connected with the administration or enforcement of a Federal or State education program, as permitted by Section 9(b)(2)(C)(iii) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. Persons directly connected to the administration or enforcement of NAEP are authorized recipients of children's free and reduced price meal eligibility status because NAEP is a Federal education program. Additionally, SFAs may disclose children's names and eligibility status to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of State educational assessment programs to the extent that the State assessment is part of the NAEP or the assessment program is established at the State, not local level. Other State education programs also are eligible to have access to participants' names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, but the program must be established at the State, not local level.

The term "persons directly connected" for the purpose of disclosure to NAEP includes Federal, State and local program operators responsible for NAEP program administration or program compliance and their contractors. This does not imply that these persons have routine access to participants' eligibility status. There must be a "need to know" for legitimate NAEP purposes.

We recommend that SFAs inform households if they plan to disclose or use eligibility information outside the originating program. We also recommend that the school food authority enter into a written agreement with NAEP officials. We suggest that the agreement be signed by both the SFA and NAEP officials, as appropriate, that the agreement identify the entity receiving the information, describe the information to be disclosed and how it will be used, describe how the information will be protected from unauthorized uses and disclosures, and describe the penalties for unauthorized disclosure.